

## **SJOGREN'S SYNDROME (provisional diagnosis)**

*Please note this is our provisional diagnosis which must be confirmed by tests. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask your doctor.*

- This is an uncommon condition
- The cause is unknown but it is immunological and possibly viral
- It is not known to be infectious
- It is not usually inherited
- Common features are dry mouth and dry eyes
- Joint and other problems *may* be associated
- X-rays, blood tests and biopsy may be required
- Symptoms can usually be controlled but not cured with simple drugs
- Common complications are mouth soreness, tooth decay and salivary swelling
- *Rare complication, in a very few patients* is a tumour.
- You should get yourself checked regularly if advised by the specialist
- Useful website <http://www.sjsworld.org/>
- Advice is available from  
British Sjogren's Syndrome Association  
Unit 1, Manor Workshops,  
Nailsea Wall Lane  
West End, Nailsea  
Bristol BS19 2DD

*A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination of treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)*

Professor Crispian Scully CBE  
Eastman Dental Institute for Oral Health Care Sciences  
and International Centres for Excellence in Dentistry  
University of London  
256, Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8LD  
[www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk)  
February 2003